Extension of Naihati and Budge-Budge line

436. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Techno Economic Survey was undertaken to extend the Naihati and Budge-Budge line under Sealdah division upto Bandel, under Howrah division; and

(b) if so, the latest development thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pending safety packages

437. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of rail accident in the last one year and the details arising thereof;

(b) the number of occasions where shortcomings in the track and bridges have been located and traffic has been affected with details arising out of each such discovery;

(c) whether for any of these sabotage has been established;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of safety related packages pending, the financial requirement of such projects and a tentative time-table and plan of implementation and other details arising thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The number of consequential rail accidents during the year 2001-2002 were 414. These include 280 derailments, 30 collisions, 88 accidents at level crossings, 8 cases of fire in trains and 8 miscellaneous accidents.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) To wipe out the arrears in replacement of overaged assets like track, bridges, rolling stock, signalling gears, etc. in a fixed time frame of

six years, a non-lapsable, "Special Railway Safety Fund" (SRSF) of Rs. 17,000 crore has been set up in October, 2001. 16,538 kms of track renewal and 2700 number of Bridge Works have been identified to be taken up under the SRSF.

Doubling of Solapur-Pakni line

438. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether while inaugurating the double-lining extension project on January 5, 2002 the Minister also announced further extension of the Solapur-Pakni double-lining to Mohol;

(b) if so, what priority is proposed to be accorded to this further extension; what is the estimated cost thereof; and whether this extension has been included in the plan for implementation during 2003-2004; and

(c) whether this double-lining is being undertaken as a part of double-lining of the Bhigwan section; if so, the details of over-all double-lining project from Solapur to Bhigwan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of doubling from Pakni to Mohol has been assessed as about Rs.40 crore. The budget for 2003-2004 is under finalisation and the position will be known when the budget is presented in the Parliament.

(c) The patch doubling of Solapur-Pakni on Solapur-Bhigwan section is in progress.

Meeting of GMs on accidents

439. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the second week of January, 2003, a meeting of the Railway General Managers was held to look into the aspects of increasing incidents of human failure that caused accidents;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting;